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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
Division of Land Economics



BULLETIN OF FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AFFECTING LAND USE

Bulletin 38

April 8, 1938, to April 21, 1938

(Primarily for the use of the Land Use Planning Personnel of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and collaborating offices and agencies)

I. FEDERAL LEGISLATION

BANKING AND CREDIT

H. R. 10056. Mr. Bierman. To Committee on Agriculture, March 28.

S. 3679. Mr. Gillette. To Banking and Currency Committee, March 17.

To reduce the rates of interest on farm loans made by the Land Bank Commissioner. To extend for two years the $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ interest rate on loans made through national farm loan associations or Federal Land Banks. No payments to Federal Land Banks for reimbursement for amounts lost by interest reduction shall be made with respect to any period after June 30, 1940 (amending 12 U.S.C. Supp. III, 771). The rate of interest on outstanding loans made to farmers by the Land Bank Commissioner shall not exceed 4% annually for all interest payable within two years of effective date of this act instead of two years after July 22, 1937 (amending 12 U.S.C. Supp. III, 1016).

FORESTRY

H. R. 10070. Mr. Ramspeck. To Committee on Agriculture, March 29.

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into cooperative agreements with the various states or political subdivisions, for the development and maintenance of recreational areas within national forests and on lands owned by the states or political subdivisions.

GRAZING

S. 3763. Mr. Wheeler. To Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, March 31.

To amend the law admitting North Dakota, South Dakota,

Montana, and Washington into the Union (25 Stat. 679, Sec. 11) to provide that agricultural and grazing leases of lands donated to those states for educational purposes may not be longer than ten years (now five years).

II. STATE LEGISLATION

AGRICULTURE

Mississippi. S. B. 469. Approved March 25.

To create a State Chemurgic Laboratory Commission (composed of the Governor, Attorney General and Commissioner of Agriculture) for the purpose of acquiring, transferring or designating the lands necessary for the construction of the Federal Research Laboratory and to pay to the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States a sum not exceeding \$500,000 upon assurance that such Laboratory will be established in Mississippi.

Mississippi. S. B. 470. Approved March 25.

To appropriate \$500,000 to be paid by the Chemurgic Laboratory Commission to the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States for the purpose of securing the location within the state of the Southern Regional Farm Products Utilization Laboratory.

Mississippi. S. B. 468. Approved March 25.

To authorize political subdivisions to issue bonds to finance aid to the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States for the purpose of securing the location and construction of buildings and equipment for the Southern Regional Farm Products Utilization Laboratory.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

Mississippi. H. B. 735. Approved March 29.

To reorganize the State Tax Commission by enlarging and increasing the duties of the Associate Commissioners and transferring certain functions from the Associate Commissioners to the Ad Valorem and Excise commissioners for the purpose of assuring greater efficiency of administration.

LAND USE

California. S. B. 31-X. Mr. McDonald. Approved March 29, Special Session Laws of 1938, Ch. 7.

To authorize the creation of Soil Conservation Districts for the purpose of engaging in conserving soil resources and preventing and controlling soil erosion. This bill substantially follows the provisions of the Standard State Soil Conservation Act prepared by the Department of Agriculture.

Mississippi. H. B. 454. Approved April 5.

To authorize the creation of soil conservation districts for the purpose of engaging in conserving soil resources and preventing and controlling soil erosion. This bill is similar to the Standard Soil Conservation Act of the Department of Agriculture.

Virginia. S. B. 38. Messers. Moses, Parker and Walter.
Approved April 1.

To authorize the formation of Soil Conservation Districts for the purpose of engaging in conserving soil resources and preventing and controlling soil erosion. This bill is similar to the Standard State Soil Conservation Act of the Department of Agriculture.

Mississippi. H. B. 812. Approved April 7.

To encourage and assist ~~land owners~~ to terrace and ditch their agricultural lands properly and cooperate with the Federal Government in soil erosion work. The State Forester, Director of Experiment Station and Director of Extension Service, shall, upon written application of the owners of land aggregating 7500 acres, appoint a soil erosion committee for the county. This committee shall cooperate with the county agent in soil erosion activity within the county, and with all agencies of the state or Federal Government engaged in the prevention of soil erosion; recommend to the Board of Supervisors the purchase of proper machinery and supplies for ditching and terracing; approve contracts or agreements by the Board of Supervisors for the labor to operate such machinery; approve the costs to landowners for the work performed and supervise such performance; and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors of necessary taxes to maintain a soil erosion fund to finance such operations. Contracts for work on lands may not be approved or performed unless taxes are paid up to date. Provision is made that in the event the Board of Supervisors fail to advertise for bids to purchase machinery the committee may call a special election; and a favorable vote would be a mandate for the Board to proceed. Costs of performing soil erosion work are to be assessed against the property as an improvement tax. This act applies to Attala, Carroll, Claiborne, Clay, Copiah, Forrest, Franklin, George, Greene, Grenada, Hancock, Harrison, Holmes, Humphreys, Itawamba, Jackson, Kemper, Lamar, Leake, Lee, Madison, Monroe, Neshoba, Oktibbeha, Pearl River, Pike, Prentiss, Rankin, Scott, Stone, Tishomingo, Union, Warren and Webster Counties.

Virginia. H. B. 83. Approved March 31.

To regulate outdoor advertising outside the limits of cities and towns. The Highway Commissioner shall administer the act and make all necessary rules and regulations. The commissioner shall upon payment of annual fees grant licenses to qualified applicants for advertising signs.

Virginia. S. J. R. 14. Adopted March 6.

To create a commission to make a study of primary and secondary highways systems of the state, in cooperation with the State Highway Commission, Citizens Road League, State Board of Education, State Planning Board and Federal agencies. The Commission shall ascertain the uncompleted mileage of primary highways, the money necessary to bring such highways to required standards, necessary reorganization of highways, approximate amount of money available annually for construction, the most effective means of promoting safety and any other material useful in developing a systematic highway plan. A report is to be made to the Governor and assembly sixty days before the next regular session of the legislature.

PLANNING

South Carolina. S. B. 810. Approved March 12. Laws of 1938, Ch. 851.

To create a State Planning Board of nine members (three to be appointed by the Governor, three elected by the Senate and three elected by the House) for the purpose of planning and accomplishing a coordinated efficient economic development of the State. It is required to make investigations as requested by the Governor or legislature, make recommendations for the coordination of research and developing agencies, cooperate with federal, state and local planning agencies, promote interest in planning. State agencies are directed to make available any information for the use of the Board.

Virginia. H. B. 189. Mr. Miller. Approved April 1.

To enable the boards of supervisors or other governing bodies of the various counties of the state to adopt and enforce zoning regulations in the unincorporated portions thereof for the purpose of controlling residence, agriculture, forestry, trade, and the size, height, etc., of buildings. The powers granted by this act may be exercised by any county only after the appointment of a county planning commission authorized by Chapter 427 of the Laws of 1935; and such planning commission is designated to serve as zoning commission. The establishment, composition and specific powers of the board of appeals is discretionary. Further authority is given to appoint a special zoning enforcing officer. It is provided that the discontinuance of a non-conforming use entails the immediate loss of the right to non-conformance.

PUBLIC LANDS

Mississippi. S. B. 464. Mr. Bulloch. Approved April 7.

To authorize the State College to lease from the United States a tract of (approximately 89,000 acres) submarginal land as a conservation project. A commission is created under the general supervision of the Board of Trustees of the Institute

of Higher Learning (President of the State College, Director of Extension, Director of Experiment Stations) to supervise the use of the land. A stock farm is to be established to breed and grow improved strains of cattle, surpluses to be sold to farmers at cost. Experiments in forestry and soil conservation work are to be conducted. The Commission is to cooperate with State and Federal agencies in any phase of its activities.

South Carolina. H. B. 1661. Approved March 31, Laws 1938, Act 974.

To direct the sheriff of Aiken County to convey by fee title all tax forfeited lands of record now or hereafter to the Forfeited Land Commission after 90 days written notice to the delinquent tax payer. The lands shall then be transferred for a period of 25 years to the County Forest Protective Association who shall enter into cooperative agreement with the State Commissioner of Forestry for administration. There is appropriated by Aiken County \$2500 annually and 5¢ for each acre over 50,000 for administrative purposes to the Commission.

South Carolina. H. B. 1957. Mr. Black. Approved March 28, Laws of 1938, Ch. 949.

To provide for the formation and management of a County Forest Fire Control Organization for the purpose of providing for the protection of forest lands, promoting reforestation on denuded and understocked and sub-marginal areas, and aiding in the enforcement of all laws pertaining to forests in York County.

South Carolina. H. B. 2197. Mr. Leffen. Approved April 8, Laws of 1937, Act 1029.

To provide for the formation and management of a County Forest Fire Control Organization for the purpose of providing for the protection of forest lands, promoting reforestation on denuded and understocked and submarginal areas, and aiding in the enforcement of laws pertaining to forestry, in Charleston County.

South Carolina. H. B. 2291. Lancaster Delegation. Introduced March 29.

To provide for the formation and management of a County Forest Fire Control Organization for the purpose of providing for the protection of forest lands, promoting reforestation on denuded and understocked and submarginal areas, and aiding in the enforcement of all laws pertaining to forests in Lancaster County.

REAL PROPERTY

South Carolina. H. B. 1759. Approved March 17. Laws of 1938, Act 894.

To amend the Law relative to the terms of loans upon real estate by banks (Code of 1932 Sec. 7829) by adding a provision that loans secured by first liens on improved real estate can be made up to 60% of the appraised value for a term not longer than five years amortized at a rate of at least 10% annually.

TAXES

New Jersey. S. B. 339. Mr. Hendrickson. Approved April 4. Laws 1938, Ch. 95.

To create a commission of sixteen members (including President, Board of Tax Appeals, Tax Commissioner, State Treasurer, State Auditor, State Comptroller, Commissioner of Education, member State League of Municipalities, three Senators, three Representatives and three appointees of the Governor) to study the problem of taxation and the laws relating to the assessment and collection of taxes for the purpose of determining in what respects existing tax laws may most effectively be simplified, modified restated and revised to insure greater efficiency in the assessment and collection of all taxes with a resulting diminution of the increasing accumulation of municipal liens. The Commission is directed to report to the legislature and submit drafts of legislation to carry out its recommendations. S. J. R. 1. Similar to this act, was not adopted as erroneously reported in Bulletin 36 on page 5./

South Carolina. H. B. 1790. Approved March 30, Laws of 1938, Act 981.

To authorize the extension of time for payment of all taxes for 1937 until April 30 without increasing penalties beyond the 4% penalty effective March 1, 1938. An additional penalty shall accrue May 1.

Virginia. H. R. 166. Mr. Hand. Approved March 10.

To authorize the boards of supervisors and other governing bodies of the counties to release upon certain conditions the liability for interest, penalties and accrued costs on unpaid county and district taxes upon real estate for the year 1937 and all previous years. Such release shall be made upon condition that all taxes due for the year 1937 and all previous years shall be paid on or before December 5, 1938.

WATER

Mississippi. H. B. 998. Mr. Bacon. Approved April 4.

To authorize county Boards of Supervisors to cooperate in the federal flood control program by providing (free of cost) lands, easements and rights of way necessary for project construction, and to operate such flood works after completion in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of War. The Boards may acquire any necessary land by gift or eminent domain.

